

**Patient Issues Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**August 5, 2002
Columbia Medical Center/ Wellness Center**

Discussion covered the review of the Top Priority Issues and Draft Recommendations sent in by committee members via survey.

1. **Disparity and Cultural Competence** – it was suggested than an introductory statement might be sufficient with emphasis on additional issues of specific concern to the committee.
2. It was announced that a **committee to address disparities** is being formed under the leadership of Dr. Claudia Baquet of the University of Maryland. Invitations are being extended to potential members and meetings should begin in September.
3. **Lack of attendance** causes a hindrance to the group's progress. Please make every effort to attend.
4. The remaining **DRAFT outline** was developed during the discussion:

Ideally, cancer patients would encounter the following model/process as they begin their journey toward recovery:

1. All interactions occur with consideration to issues of disparity and cultural, religious, language, and age barriers of patients.
2. Timely access to information and resources for decision making pertaining to diagnosis, treatment, symptom management and long-term survivorship.
3. Mandated cancer services, which include screening, diagnostic testing, treatment, and palliative and support services with the provider of choice in the treating facility whenever possible or suitable alternate location.
4. On-going professional education for practitioners pertaining to issues of disparity and cultural competencies, and resource identification in both training curriculums and licensure renewal practices.
5. On-going programs for cancer survivors pertaining to follow-up and job re-training.

Priority Issues:

Access to Information & Resources

- a) Timely diagnosis & treatment - Decision Making
- b) Treatment
- c) Survivor- Rehabilitation & Long-term follow-up

- Website w/ 800 # & Bookmark
- Patient Navigator Tool
- Oncology Specialist to identify resources
- Transportation support
- DORS

Financial Issues

- a) Chronic illness tax credit
- b) Mandated cancer services (reform of MCO/ HMO patient access issues)
- c) Committee housed within DHMH to provide on-going exploration for options to out-of-pocket expenses
 - Medications
 - Transportation
 - Child/Elder Care

Psycho-Social Issues

- a) Offer incentives for students interested in pursuing training in Oncology Social Work
- b) Integrate an Oncology Psycho-Social curriculum in medical schools in Maryland to educate providers about patient sensitivity issues.
- c) Mandated coverage for mental health benefits.

Programs for Long-term Survivorship

- a) Long-term follow-up of cancer survivors
- b) Job re-training

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, August 26, 2002
 Columbia Medical Center/ Wellness Center
 Lower Level - Suite L-9 – Classroom A
 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Suggestions for next Agenda include:

- Incorporation and fine-tuning of subsequent comments, recommendations, etc.
- Review of Ideal Model for Consensus Conference
- Review of Navigator Tool
- Presentation of Patient Needs Statistics (Julie Cain)
- Ad hoc committee formation to review resources & materials collected for citation in 2003 Cancer Plan